

New York, Thursday, July 3, 1885.

## WEEKLY HERALD.

The Weekly Herald will be published on Saturday morning at 9 o'clock. It will contain a full account of the Fourth of July celebration in this city with illustrations.

## News by the Hibernia.

This steamer is fully due to-day. She left Liverpool on the 19th ult., and will, therefore, bring half a month's later intelligence.

## The Post Office Law—Newspaper Advertising.

We have already alluded, on several occasions, to the new feature in the Post Office law, which directs every Postmaster to publish the advertisements of the Department in the papers of the largest circulation, in the various cities and towns within their immediate control. From Mr. Morris, the Postmaster of this city, a circular has just issued, directed to every newspaper proprietor in New York; and the following is a copy of the one received by us—

Post Office,

New York, June 29, 1885.

To THE PROPRIETOR OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.

A daily paper published in the City of New York.

By the Act of Congress, I am obliged to select, for the advertisement of letters not called for at this Office, a newspaper or newspapers having the largest circulation in the City of New York, and am authorized to receive evidence, and decide upon the basis of such circulation, in pursuance of such authority, I have taken the liberty to enclose to you duplicate blank affidavits, in each of which, if you desire to obtain the publication of the letters of the Government, you will please insert the names of the persons for which blanks are left, and the number of your circulation, and after the same are sworn to, enclose such affidavits to me. Your affidavits will be kept perfectly private, unless your paper should prove to be the one, or one of those, having the largest circulation, in which event, your affidavits will be open to the inspection of proprietors of daily papers, who may be unsuccessful applicants.

This circular has been addressed to the proprietors of all the daily papers, and desire that I may receive your answer by Wednesday next. ROBT. H. MORRIS, P.M.

Accompanying this circular is the following blank for an affidavit of the specific information required by the Post Master, under the proposed law.

STATE OF NEW YORK, ss.

City and County of New York, ss.

Proprietor of the daily paper published in the City of New York, called the \_\_\_\_\_

and having charge of the press-room of said paper, do hereby certify, each being duly sworn, severally and jointly, and each for himself deposes and says, that the daily circulation of said paper, in and for the City and County of New York, for one month next preceding the said twenty-first day of June, 1885, excluding extras, was \_\_\_\_\_

And these deponents further severally deposes and says, that the average daily circulation of said paper, excluding extras, in and for the City and County of New York, for one month next preceding the said twenty-first day of June, 1885, was \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn before me, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1885.

The requirements of this circular and proposed form of affidavit are very remarkable. The Post Master only asks an account of the daily circulation of each paper "in the city and county of New York." Why restrict such a species of information to the city and county of New York, when not only the city and county of New York, but the neighboring towns, are as much concerned and interested in the information as this city? In the matters of common concernment in daily life, Mr. Morris, the Postmaster, is a gentleman—a man of honor, and a polished and intelligent individual. But in his policies there are some times at which particular features develop themselves in his character, and we believe the occasion which called forth this circular is one of these. He asks for information which can hardly be given by any well regulated newspaper in this city, of a large and comprehensive circulation; and, probably the impossibility of such information being given, may be the foundation, on an excuse for giving his advisees, contrary to the law, to some miserably circulated paper, belonging to the party that placed him where he is. We hope that such is not the motive in issuing such a circular; but it would appear that something mysterious prompted such a strangely expressed requisition. Be that as it may, however, we are determined to meet the case as fully, and as amply as it is possible for any honorable man to do; and we shall, accordingly, return, this day, to the Postmaster, an affidavit of our circulation for a month, with other items of information, in the following form, as transcribed, with the utmost accuracy and fidelity, from our books:—

STATE OF NEW YORK, ss.

City and County of New York, ss.

James Gordon, Proprietor of the newspaper published in the City of New York, called the *Herald*, and S. M. Raymond, Foreman of the Press Room of said paper, and George W. Whitney, having charge of the counting of said paper, each being duly sworn, severally and jointly, do hereby deposes and says, that the circulation of said paper for the month of June, 1885, was in numbers as copied from the books, as follows:—

1885.

June. Daily. Extra. Weekly.

1. 1,937. 2,842. 33,816.

2. 12,129. 2,842. 33,816.

3. 12,129. 2,842. 33,816.

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circulation of the other journals may be varied according to the information reaches us from authentic sources; but we believe that we are pretty near the mark, in giving the estimates and figures relative to them, which we have above set down. It will be seen from these comparative statements, that the *New York Herald* has an aggregate circulation of nearly ten thousand over any other daily and weekly paper in this city, with the exception, as we have said, of some of the religious papers. This fact can be established to the perfect satisfaction of any one, by reference to our books, to which access for this purpose can always be had, and also to our foreman and clerks.

Yet in the face of these palpable facts, various and gross attempts have been made from time to time to underrate the circulation—the influence—and the comprehensiveness of the *Herald* establishment, in order to subvert some paltry political, financial or personal ends. We are happy, however, to have it in our power, under the new law of Congress regulating the business of the Post Office Department, to set at defiance all the falsehoods circulated on that point, and we invite the commercial community to reflect on the facts now placed before them, and perceive how utterly deceived, cheated and humbugged they have been, in paying such enormous sums for advertising in papers of such limited circulation, as compared with the great establishment of the *New York Herald*. We know it to be a fact, that some of the mercantile houses of this city pay from \$300 to \$500 a year for the publication of their advertisements in some of the down town papers—papers which have a circulation of from four or five thousand daily, to about as many weekly, while the same advertisements would obtain a publicity, for much less money, in the *Herald*, circulating to five or six times that extent. As to the advertising of the post office, we don't care a pin for it. We ask it not, and will not advertise the letters unless the government give us our own terms, which are, we conceive, reasonable and accommodating.

How long will the merchants, traders, dealers, shopkeepers, professional men, servants, and all other classes of society who advertise in the daily journals, be the dupes of papers of limited circulation, throwing away their money without a sufficient, or anything like an adequate, return?

THE OREGON QUESTION—RUMORED COMPROMISE.—In the *Journal of Commerce* of yesterday, publicity is given to a rumor, which has been floating in the political circles at Washington, to the effect that our government are going to make a settlement of the Oregon question, by agreeing to the forty-ninth degree, as the boundary line between the British and American possessions. It is rumored in another quarter that this proposition is to be taken out by Mr. McLane to England. If such an idea is entertained by Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Polk, it will raise a storm of indignation throughout the masses in this country, particularly in the great West, not only astonishing them, but the world.

It is idle for any government or any party to attempt to compromise this question, in any shape or form, with the British government. The only alternative in the settlement of the Oregon question which is at all probable, in accordance with the policy of the United States and the spirit of the age, is to allow the question to remain open—to adopt the principle of masterly inactivity adopted by Mr. Calhoun—leave it to time—but never compromise an inch of the national boundary—the fifty-fourth degree, or the Russian line. There is no other alternative besides this but a collision, immediate and at once, between this country and England. The Western States, and indeed the mass of the people out of the influence of the great commercial cities, bound by certain ties with English interests, will never compromise that question in any other shape than by the possession of the whole territory.—They may postpone it—they may delay it—they may wait until the emigrants into Oregon and California are strong enough to play the same species of diplomacy as the Texans have played. But no administration—no President—no Secretary of State, dare compromise that question, without the destruction of its or his popularity and power, and immediate consignment to utter and eternal oblivion by the popular voice of the country.

In the meantime, the government ought at once to construct two of the most powerful steamers, accompanied with several sailing vessels, as a fleet of observation, and send it out to the Pacific, to watch the mouth of the Columbia, and protect the settlers in Oregon, laying the foundation of a great western empire, and of a great trade, which must, in the course of a very few years, spring up between this country and the great empire of China. In less than twenty years, we expect to see a steam communication, partly by railroad and partly by canal, by the way of St. Louis, between New York and the Oregon, and from the mouth of the Columbia a communication to Canton and other ports in China. By this means a commercial intercourse would be opened between the youngest republic and the oldest nation of the world, which would not only astonish England, but all Europe and the old world. The prospects are opening up in every direction—wide, extensive, eternal prospects of the future and vastly extended exercise of the energy, enterprise, genius and power of the Anglo-Saxon race on this continent, and nothing in the shape of diplomacy at Washington or elsewhere, can mar those prospects. This country must fulfill its career, and that career embraces the subjugation of Texas, California, Oregon, and ultimately Canada, under the sway of one people, one law, one Constitution, and one public opinion.

THE SACRED TRIAL.—This trial before one of the religious tribunals of New York is still going on, under lock and key, in the vestry room of one of the most pious churches in this city. We understand that the young woman who has been the subject of the Onderdonk in this case, was a chambermaid in the family of the holy man—a pretty, engaging, innocent, orphan girl! But she did not at all like the attentions of her pious master, who is a man of a good deal of talent—has written poetry and prose in the service of the church, and has enjoyed great popularity for his peculiarly powerful and affecting invocations addressed to the Most High. The clergyman who sits in judgment are all popular preachers in this city, highly distinguished in all the duties of their calling, and no doubt will deal out justice to the accuser and the accused, between the man of God, and the poor orphan girl who has been the subject of the new system introduced into the Episcopal church, and sanctioned for years in that venerable body and distinguished portion of the household of faith.

THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.—It will be seen by a report in another column, of the proceedings in the Board of Education yesterday afternoon, that measures for the removal of Dr. Reese, the County Superintendent, are in progress. The reasons stated, if satisfactorily established, are more than sufficient to justify the removal. These vain, noisy, blustering and bigoted policies should be deprived as much as possible of their powers of doing mischief. When their tails are properly clipped and their claws judiciously extracted, they may be allowed to hop about harmlessly enough. But it is rather dangerous to give them the slightest chance of flying about from place to place, making, as it were, ex-cathedra appeals to the frantic bigotry of sectaries, and stirring up the worst passions of the human heart—and whilst professedly employed in the sacred service of education, scattering like the fool in the Proverbs, firebrands, and arrows recklessly throughout the whole community.

LADIES' FAIR AT ROSVILLE ON THE FOURTH.—We would call the attention of our readers to the fair to be held on the 4th, at Rossville, Staten Island. It will be a delightful excursion, offering health, pleasure and benevolence. See the advertisement.

STEAM SHIP CALEDONIA left Boston on Tuesday, with seventy-nine passengers, for Halifax and Liverpool.

THE FIRST PERFORMANCE OF THE FAMED ROBERT LE DIABLE, is an important event in the musical annals of New York. The public at last has had an opportunity of convincing themselves, that the immense reputation of Meyerbeer is fully deserved, for since Mozart's Don Juan and Weber's Freyschutz, there has not been written an opera, that has produced a similar sensation throughout the world—that has so astonished the musician and delighted the public. Till Robert, Meyerbeer's genius was not entirely developed; there were signs visible of his being destined to revolutionize operatic music; but amidst many points of great originality, there were not unfrequent attempts at a generally successful imitation. Meyerbeer was written in that school that found such a powerful representative in the author of Der Freyschutz. They procured some reputation to the composer, but they failed to electrify the world, which was keenly felt by the youthful Meyerbeer, whose ruling passion was ambition. He went to Italy, where at that time Rossini reigned paramount. The fruit of this journey was *Il crociato in Egitto*, in which he out-Rossini Rossini himself, and which opera at once stamped him a great man. Here we find the germ of many an idea, which is to be found "ripe and real" in his later works, as for instance in the double march, with a kind of echo, which likewise appears in *Il crociato*, so very interesting. But the climax of his fame was obtained in Robert, and the Huguenots, where he united the elements of two different schools into a whole, firm and indivisible; and became the founder of the romantic school in music, as Victor Hugo in his dramas, and above all his *Notre Dame de Paris*.

The plot of this piece is very curious; it is founded on a very old and extraordinary manuscript in the King's library at Paris, entitled *Chronique of Robert, Duke of Normandy*. Bertram, King of Hell (Doubtful), receives permission to appear on earth, and during his sojourn has been loved by Bertha, Queen of Normandy, by whom he has a son, Robert le Diable, Duke of Normandy (Arcturion). Robert is a worthy son of such a sire, and for his misdeeds has been exiled from the country, and arrives in Sicily, where the scene is laid. When the curtain rises, Robert is in Palermo, in love with Isabella, the Princess of Sicily (Casini), whose hand he covets with numerous rivals. Bertram, who is now on earth, is his father, and his aim is to render him guilty enough to be condemned to the infernal regions with him. Robert's foster sister, Alice, and her betrothed arrive in Normandy in Sicily, and Alice brings Robert his mother's ring, which is a token of his royal lineage. During the whole course of the play, the bad angel, Bertram, and the good angel, Alice, contend for Robert's soul. Bertram conducts him to a magic circle, the circle of the Kossow, where there is an enchanted mirror, which shows him the Robert can obtain all his wishes. Aided by this talisman, he gets into trouble near the Princess Isabella, but at last he bends to his good propensities, and breaks the magic branch in pieces, and the charm thus destroyed, he is no longer under the influence of his evil genius. Pursued, and without an asylum, he enters under the portico of the Cathedral, where Bertram follows him, and confesses to Robert that he is his father, and wishes him to sign a contract by which he would be secure of eternal life, and his company forever, as, devil as he is, he loves his son devotedly. Alice at this moment arrives, and reads to Robert his mother's will, and the unfortunate Duke, torn by contending affections, is uncertain which to obey, but the last word is given, and he is the utmost limit for Bertram, who is then swallowed up by the opening of the infernal regions.—Alice is left victorious, and conducts Robert to the Princess Isabella, who is now a widow, and wishes him to sign a contract by which he would be secure of eternal life, and his company forever, as, devil as he is, he loves his son devotedly. 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